

March 2, 2004

Linda Lake, Chair
Washington State Board of Health
Post Office Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

Dear Ms. Lake:

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-015, provisional condition notification, allows the state health officer to request notification of certain diseases and conditions for a forty-month period. Before the end of that period, the department must conduct an evaluation of each notification requirement, and recommend to the board any conditions that should become permanently notifiable. Enclosed for your review is the report on provisionally notifiable conditions.

There are currently eight conditions that are reported to the department on a provisionally notifiable basis. The conditions are: autism; cerebral palsy; fetal alcohol syndrome/fetal alcohol effects; Hepatitis B, chronic (initial diagnosis, and previously unreported prevalent cases); Hepatitis C (initial diagnosis, and previously unreported prevalent cases); Herpes simplex (initial genital infection only); streptococcus, Group A (invasive disease only – indicated by blood, spinal fluid, or other normally sterile site); and birth defects – abdominal wall defects. The department recommends that all of the conditions be moved to the permanently notifiable conditions list, except for Streptococcus, Group A.

The reporting requirement for the provisionally notifiable conditions expires August 2004. If the board accepts the department's recommendations, the department requests the board initiate rulemaking to allow continued reporting of the conditions.

If you have any questions, contact me at (360) 236.4030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small flourish at the end.

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Enclosure